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15 August 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. R. J. Smith, DDI
Mr. Abbot Smith, A/D/ONE
Mr. Richard Lehman, A/D/OCI

SUBJECT : Request from ISA

1. I was called this afternoon (15 August) by Rear Admiral William Lemos, the deputy to Mr. Steadman in ISA (Mr. Steadman, in turn, being Assistant Secretary Warrack's deputy for Far Eastern matters). Admiral Lemos advised that "a large book" was being prepared for Secretary McNamara and had to be given to him by COB Wednesday, 16 August. The subject of this "book" was the closing of the port of Haiphong by mining, supplemented by bombing. Though Admiral Lemos did not specifically say so, I infer from his comments that this "book" constitutes an analysis of the pros and cons of closing Haiphong, concluding with a recommendation that this action be initiated.

2. Admiral Lemos said that the Secretary would want to know the Agency's views on probable Soviet and Chinese reactions to any such closing of Haiphong. Lemos, who was calling from a secure phone in the NMCC and, hence, was not at his desk, said that he had a May 1967 Agency memorandum to Secretary McNamara outlining our views on probable Soviet and Chinese reactions to this course of action. Since he was not at his desk, he could not identify this May memorandum more precisely. What he wanted to know and tell Secretary McNamara was whether the Agency still held the same judgments that it had held in May or whether these judgments had not modified by developments in China, the international scene, the Soviet-American relations, or the course of bombing in North Vietnam since last May.

3. The memorandum Admiral Lemos was referring to could only have been our 23 May 1967 memorandum on "Reaction to Various US Courses of Action," a copy of which is attached to this note. This memorandum was part of the large package we prepared for Secretary McNamara. The other components

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of this package were two documents: one, a 14-part bound tome entitled, "The Vietnam Situation: An Analysis and Estimate"; the other, a briefer and separate synthesis of this tome.

4. Under the circumstances, I feel that we must make some reply to ISA, either standing by the position we took on 23 May or else modifying that position and explaining the reasons which prompt this modification. I would appreciate it if you could review the attached memorandum and let me know by 1900 Wednesday, 16 August, whether you still subscribe to the judgments made in that memorandum's paragraphs 15-17, or whether you think the Agency should modify its position on this point. I want to send a coordinated comment to the Director for his approval before making any reply to Admiral Lemos' query.

George A. Carver, Jr.
Special Assistant for Vietnamese Affairs

Attachment
a/s

cc: DCI w/att
DDCI w/att

GAC:mee

1@ = Addressees and cc's w/atts

1 - Aerial Pressure Program w/o att

1 - DOD ~~KMXS~~ Special Projects file w/o att

1 - GAC Chrono w/o att

1 - VAS Chrono w/o att